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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate Future Development of SMR Systems in the 800 MHz Frequency Band PR Docket No. 93-144

and

Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act - Competitive Bidding 800 MHz SMR

PP Docket No. 93-253

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS

Date: March 2, 1995

240 East El Norte Parkway

Escondido California 92026

(714) 786-6853

Fax (714) 786-8160

February 24, 1995 RECEIVED

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Dear Chairmen,

On behalf of 43+ 800MH_Z licensees, 30 of whom are current continuous in the process of constructing a commercial system, and 15 of MESCATARN of whom are anticipating the opportunity of doing the same, we implore you to take under advisement the PCIA/NABER proposal as well as the Joint Reply Comments prepared by Meyer, Faller, Weisman and Rosenberg. We are part of a group that contacted you last August regarding the freeze and future auctioning of 800MH_Z spectrum. Understanding that the Communications industry is exploding and that the result of this is a changing (and necessarily so) regulatory framework, we are contacting you again to draw your attention to the following facts.

SMR, unlike PCS, is not a brand new industry. It is not touted or championed by wealthy corporate giants as the communications system of the future, with the exception of Nextel (and that yet remains to be proven). Traditional SMR is tried, proven and proven to be beneficial to its users. It is a technology and an industry with a history, the backbone of which consists of hundreds, even thousands, of operators nationwide. We are not asking that the Commission adopt new policies that will guarantee our long term success, but rather we are asking that the Commission insure that regulatory changes do not put us at the mercy of the AT&Ts of the SMR industry. The PCIA/NABER proposal for smaller local (BEA's) is more consistent with the size and scope of incumbent SMR's. However, it permits everyone, including those hoping to offer wide area digital service, a competitive chance for success without endangering the livelihoods of traditional operators. The regulatory framework should protect not only our interests in maintaining what we have, but also in expanding our present systems and services.

Because of a lack of spectrum many of us have been forced to file for conventional channels or to enter into agreements with general category licensees. There are several examples of these channels operating successfully for commercial purposes. Voice Link Communications is a new corporation formed for the purpose of utilizing the available general category licenses that otherwise would not be constructed. We have dedicated hundreds of thousands of dollars to our system(s) and could

not afford to shut down operations in order to return a cour equipment, while at the same time waiting weeks or even months for a relocation we don't even need.

If Nextel is willing to pay for mandatory relocation, will Nextel Show the same willingness to pay for the engineering necessary to redesign the frequency configuration of 30 to 50 conventional channels, not to mention to make up for the capital lost from shutting down operations?

Clearly the consequences of such a proposal have not been thoroughly examined. Or have they? As a brand new company, we are facing enoughlobstacles without having such an ominous proposal looming in our future. For example, a tower on which 28 of our licenses are licensed was promised to us for construction. Dial Call's engineer then reversed that agreement just three weeks prior to our first deadline.

Chairmen, we ask that you give the veterans and traditional SMR's of the industry due consideration. It is not necessary to subordinate their needs in order to satisfy those of the newcomer. Both can benefit from one another provided that neither is given preferential treatment.

With all due respect, Chairmen, we are:

Anne Lakos SMR Services 892 Hayes

Irvine, CA 92720

Maurice Lyon Voice Link Communications 240 E. El Norte Pkwy. Escondido, CA 92026 Maurice Codyon

Voice Link Licensees in Columbia, SC